

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



A8451  
Copy 3



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

Nov. 5 - Nov. 11, 1992

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### News Releases—

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price and User Marketing  
Certificate Payment Rate for Upland Cotton Madigan Names Cotton Board  
Members Madigan Names Members and Alternates to American Egg Board  
USDA Prosecutes First Plant Health Certificate Fraud Case Madigan Names  
Members to National Watermelon Board Optical Fibers “See” Inside Root  
Nodules in Farm Field USDA Releases Cost of Food at Home for September  
USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices USDA’s Veneman  
Opens Agricultural Trade Office in Mexico City Gypsy-Moth Threat Prompts  
USDA’s New Look at National Program USDA Protects 28 New Plant  
Varieties



# News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Minnie Tom H. Meyer (202) 720-7954  
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

## USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5—Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, through midnight Thursday, Nov. 12.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 73 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 4.54 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP .....	38.43 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate .....	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate .....	73
II.	USNE Price .....	56.65 cents per pound
	NE Price .....	-52.11 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed .....	4.54 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP will be made.



The estimated cost associated with transporting U.S. cotton to northern Europe has been revised, decreasing from 14.16 to 13.90 cents per pound. The average U.S. sport market location adjustment used to calculate today's announced AWP reflects the revision.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
NE Price .....	52.11
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	1.55
Average U.S. location .....	0.31
Sum of Adjustments .....	-13.68
Calculated AWP .....	<u>38.43</u>
Further AWP Adjustment .....	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	38.43 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment	
NE Price .....	52.11
NE Coarse Count Price .....	<u>-48.23</u>
	3.88
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton .....	<u>-3.95</u>
	-0.07
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 3.29

cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Oct. 15, 1992	58.20	53.25	4.95	3.70
2	Oct. 22, 1992	58.50	52.70	5.80	4.55
3	Oct. 29, 1992	55.90	51.85	4.05	2.80
4	Nov. 5, 1992	56.65	52.11	4.54	3.29

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Nov. 12.

#

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998  
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

## MADIGAN NAMES COTTON BOARD MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has appointed 13 members and 14 alternate members to the Cotton Board. The board administers a national cotton research and promotion program monitored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Except where otherwise indicated these appointees will serve three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1995.

Representing producers, by state, are:

Alabama/Florida — Hugh H. Summerville Jr., Aliceville, Ala., and alternate Virginia L. Martin, Courtland, Ala.

California/Nevada — William H. Crivelli, Dos Palos, Calif., alternate Sandra S. Perry, Earlimart, Calif, and alternate Steve Cantu, Tranquillity, Calif., who will serve the remainder of an existing term which expires Dec. 31, 1993.

Mississippi — John S. Howie, Yazoo City, Miss., and alternate Margaret B. McKee, Friars Point, Miss. Both terms expire Dec. 31, 1994.

Missouri — Otto Bean Jr., Holcomb, Mo., and alternate Jimmie G. Johnson, Vanduser, Mo.

New Mexico — Darvel D. Richins, Animas, N.M., and alternate Michael S. White, Dexter, N.M.

Oklahoma — Robert D. Robbins, Altus, Okla., and alternate Joyce A. Heatly, Willow, Okla.

South Carolina — Cleland B. Player Jr., Bishopville, S.C., and alternate Arthur W. James Jr., Sumter, S.C.

Tennessee/ Kentucky — Robert W. Griggs, Humboldt, Tenn., and alternate James C. Bond, Denmark, Tenn.

Texas — Arvil K. Streety, Levelland, Texas, and alternate Roy D. McCallister, Slaton, Texas.

Representing importers are Steven M. Kott, Cliffside Park, N.J., and alternate James N. Shaw IV, Keyport, N.J.; William L. Isaac, El Paso, Texas, and alternate Chandri Navarro-Bowman, Alexandria, Va.; Samuel P. Nysenbaum, Plainview, N.Y., and alternate Julia K. Hughes, Silver Spring, Md.; James B. Kilgore, San Francisco, Calif., and alternate Francis X. Kelly, New York, N.Y.

A provision in the 1990 amendment to the Cotton Research and Promotion Act allows importer appointments to the board for the first time.

The Cotton Board is comprised of 24 members and their alternates, and one public member who serves as a consumer adviser.

Each cotton producing state or region identified in the act has at least one member on the Cotton Board. Additional members are determined by the amount of cotton produced that exceeds one million bales.

The objective of the cotton research and promotion program is to advance the position of cotton in the marketplace. It is funded by assessments on all domestically produced cotton and imports of foreign produced cotton and cotton-containing products.

#



## **MADIGAN NAMES MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES TO AMERICAN EGG BOARD**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has named nine members and nine alternates to the American Egg Board to serve two-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1994.

Reappointed members and alternates, by region, are:

North Atlantic states — Galen N. Buckwalter, Greencastle, Pa., member; Shirley A. Steele, Bear, Del., alternate.

South Atlantic states — P. Jack Davis, Conyers, Ga., member; Anderson J. Walters, Jetersville, Va., alternate.

East North Central states — Joseph J. Maust, Pigeon, Mich., alternate.

West North Central states — Joseph W. Claybaugh, Carroll, Neb., member.

South Central states — Bob D. Squires, Springdale, Ark., member.

Western states — Glenn M. Hickman, Glendale, Ariz., member; Gordon D. Satrum, Canby, Ore, alternate.

Newly appointed members and alternates, by region, are:

North Atlantic states — John A. Russo, Hope Valley, R.I., alternate; Joseph H. Fortin, Lebanon, Conn., member.

East North Central states — Thomas E. Hertzfeld I, Waterville, Ohio, member; Ronald D. Truex, Warsaw, Ind., member; Frank N. Manwaring, Mentone, Ind., alternate.

West North Central states — Julie A. Mitchell, Aurora, Mo., alternate.

South Central states — Del M. Brock, Cullman, Ala., alternate.

Western states — Fred Schaefer, Rochester, Wa., member; Gerald L. Wigren, Everett, Wa., alternate.

Membership terms on the 18-member board are staggered so that half of the membership is appointed each year in order to provide continuity in policy.

The board administers an egg research and promotion program authorized by the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act of 1974. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service reviews the program's budget, plans, and projects to assure that it operates in the public interest.

The program is funded entirely by a five-cent per 30-dozen case assessment on eggs marketed by egg producers with flocks of over 30,000 hens.

#

Ed Curlett (301) 436-7799  
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

## **USDA PROSECUTES FIRST PLANT HEALTH CERTIFICATE FRAUD CASE**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—In an effort to stop improper crop exports, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service prosecuted its first plant health certificate fraud case, a USDA official announced today.

Calaway Pacific, Inc., a Washington-based shipping company, was fined \$16,000 for providing false information to obtain plant health certificates that were attached to shipments of timothy hay intended for export to Japan.

“This is a landmark case for APHIS,” said B. Glen Lee, APHIS deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine. “Violators must get the message that exporting crops without the proper treatments could have dangerous effects on agriculture in other countries and jeopardize trade agreements.”

The plant health certificates falsely claimed the hay had been fumigated in accordance with the company’s compliance agreement. The United States has an international trade agreement with Japan requiring the fumigation of hay going to Japan to prevent the introduction of the Hessian fly.

APHIS issues phytosanitary certificates for all agricultural exports to prevent plant pests from spreading to other countries.

The company was charged in U.S. District Court of Yakima with three counts of making a false material statement and representation.

For more information on phytosanitary requirements contact Jonathan Jones, assistant operations officer, Plant Plant Protection and Quarantine, (301) 436-8537.

#

## **MADIGAN NAMES MEMBERS TO NATIONAL WATERMELON BOARD**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the appointment of eight members to the National Watermelon Promotion Board.

All appointees will serve terms beginning Jan. 1, 1993, and ending Dec. 31, 1995.

Producers reappointed are: District 4 — Donald Lee Hales, Salisbury, Md., and Buddy W. Hiers, Hampton, S.C.; District 7 — John Machado Azevedo, Manteca, Calif., and Michael Francis Duncan, Phoenix, Ariz.

Handlers reappointed are: District 4 — Gerald A. Funderburk, Jefferson, S.C.; and District 7 — Thomas Charles Harrison, Nogales, Ariz.

Newly appointed handlers are: District 4 — Percy Elvin Bunch, Murfreesboro, N.C.; and District 7 — David M. Watson, Palm Desert, Calif.

The National Watermelon Promotion Board was established by the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan, authorized by the 1985 Watermelon Research and Promotion Act. The board is composed of two handler and two producer representatives for each of seven districts in the contiguous states of the United States and one public member.

Producers nominate producer members, handlers (wholesale buyers and shippers) nominate handler members, and the board nominates members representing the public. The secretary of agriculture appoints members from these groups of nominees.

The board administers a national program of research and promotion for watermelons. Watermelon producers and handlers finance the boards' programs through assessments on domestic watermelons. As in similar programs for other commodities, one third of the board members' terms expire each year, thus providing continuity in its programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the board's operations.

#



## OPTICAL FIBERS “SEE” INSIDE ROOT NODULES IN FARM FIELD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—Light beams that flash red as they pass through roots of soybeans and other nitrogen-fixing crops are telling U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers if the plants are starving for oxygen.

As oxygen levels decrease, natural “fertilizer factories” in the roots begin to shut down, said R. Ford Denison, a plant physiologist in Beckley, W. Va. Low oxygen levels in these “factories”—bumps or nodules that supply nitrogen from the air to the plant—signal that the nodules aren’t coping well with drought or some other stress, he said.

But some soybean plants—plus alfalfa and other legumes—have a superior genetic ability to regulate oxygen supplies to nodules that are under stress, said Denison of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. Above ground, such a plant may look in poor shape, he said, but the nodules get enough oxygen to still fix nitrogen.

“We want to find these plants so their genetic superiority can be bred into new varieties,” he said. That’s why Denison built a portable oxygen monitor that uses optical fibers to light up plant roots and detect the choice plants.

“We can now diagnose in less than five minutes, right in the field, whether a stressed plant is allowing adequate oxygen into the nodules,” he said.

“Other common techniques require digging plants up and bringing them back to the lab for analysis. This monitor works with minimal disturbance to plants and gives an on-the-spot analysis. It’s also more accurate.”

He said the monitor has confirmed in the field what has been reported recently in the laboratory by himself and other researchers, including Thomas R. Sinclair, an ARS plant physiologist in Florida. That is, stress causes the nodule to admit less oxygen and the nitrogen-fixing bacteria inside the nodule slow down as they become oxygen starved. “Prolonged stress can increase oxygen levels, causing similarly damaging results.”

Denison said stress can be caused by drought, heat, excess fertilizer, or loss of leaves and stems to cattle or harvesting. Future breeding efforts could lead to varieties, he said, that would assure farmers that, despite the shriveled appearance of crops aboveground, the underground production of free fertilizer for current and future crops hadn’t slowed down.

He and a Canadian collaborator, David Layzell, have a patent on the oxygen-measuring technique as it applies to legume nodules. A U.S. company is developing a commercial version that is expected to be available



by the end of the year. That means researchers and breeders will be able to take the monitor into fields to identify superior plants, Denison said.

On Denison's own trips to check out soybean plants, he brushes dirt away from the stem to expose a root nodule. He places two optical fibers against the nodule, using a hollow brass probe to direct a stream of air, nitrogen or oxygen over the nodule. High-intensity red and infrared light flash through one fiber, illuminating the nodule. The ratio of red to infrared light returning through the second fiber to a photodetector is used to calculate oxygen concentration. The oxygen reading is relayed to a computer that records the signal and translates it to a computerized voice that gives a readout of oxygen levels.

Denison said medical researchers have contacted him about his oxygen monitoring studies. That's because oxygen movement from a human's blood vessels to muscle tissue has some similarities to the way oxygen moves in nodules of soybeans and other legumes.

"A couple of medical researchers have talked to me about the technique's potential for helping understand oxygen movement in the human body," he said. That could include research into better ways to monitor patients during surgery and protect transplant organs from oxygen deprivation.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact R. Ford Denison, plant physiologist, Appalachian Soil and Water Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beckley, W.Va. 25802-0867. Telephone: (700) 920-6426.

#

Susan Conley (202) 690-0351  
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026  
Issued: Nov. 9, 1992

## **GRILLING THAT HOLIDAY BIRD**

WASHINGTON—"Many of us are joining the grilling generation," said Susan Conley, manager of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline, as she reviewed calls to the hotline during the past year.

How about you? Enjoy a tasty grilled bird with family or friends, but follow these tips and techniques to keep it safe to eat.

The size of the turkey is important. Select a turkey that will fit under the dome or lid of the grill or smoker. Set the grill in a well-ventilated, well-lighted area away from trees, shrubs and the house.

How you grill or smoke a turkey depends in part on your equipment. Buy high quality charcoal briquettes and only approved fire starters. Build your fire with approximately 50 briquettes about 30 minutes before you begin cooking.

For indirect heat cooking—which is recommended for a whole turkey or large turkey breasts—place two piles of charcoal as far as possible against the outside edges of the lower grill. For grilling, place a drip pan slightly larger than the turkey between the two piles. For smoking, add water to the pan.

When coals get red hot and are covered with a light coat of gray ash, cooking may begin. Replenish with about 15 briquettes every hour or as needed to maintain 250° to 300° Fahrenheit heat. If a smoked flavor is desired, add 1/2 cup of water-soaked hickory chips to the charcoal during the last 30 minutes.

If you use a gas grill, follow the manufacturer's directions for lighting and preheating. Remember that outside weather conditions can affect cooking time.

The turkey must be thoroughly cooked to destroy any bacteria that may cause foodborne illness. A meat thermometer placed in the inner thigh should reach 180°. You may also test for doneness by inserting a long-tined fork into the thickest area of the inner thigh. If the juices run clear to yellow, the turkey is done. Allow 15 to 18 minutes per pound for an unstuffed turkey.

Transfer cooked turkey to a clean platter—never to the dish that held the raw turkey. Juices from the raw turkey may contain bacteria that could cause foodborne illness.

“Grill” the experts on the Meat and Poultry Hotline with your questions on preparing meat and poultry safely. Home economists and registered dietitians are available to help consumers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST throughout the month of November.

The national tollfree number is 1-800-535-4555. Washington, D.C., area residents may call (202) 720-3333. In addition to weekdays, the tollfree hotline is open on Nov. 21 and 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Hours on Thanksgiving Day are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Callers with touch-tone phones can find answers to many holiday food safety questions by selecting from a variety of recorded messages, which are available 24 hours a day.

The Meat and Poultry Hotline is a consumer education service of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

#

## USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for September 1992:

### Cost of Food at Home for a Week in September 1992

	----- Food plans -----			
	Thrifty	Low- cost (in dollars)	Moderate- cost	Liberal
<b>Families:</b>				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	49.60	62.50	76.90	95.40
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	47.00	60.00	73.80	88.30
Family of 4 with preschool children	72.40	90.20	110.10	135.00
Family of 4 with elemen- tary schoolchildren	83.00	106.10	132.30	159.20
<b>Individuals in four-person families:</b>				
<b>Children:</b>				
1-2 years	13.20	16.00	18.70	22.60
3-5 years	14.10	17.40	21.50	25.70
6-8 years	17.30	23.10	28.80	33.60
9-11 years	20.60	26.20	33.60	38.90
<b>Males:</b>				
12-14 years	21.30	29.60	37.00	43.30
15-19 years	22.10	30.60	38.00	44.00
20-50 years	23.70	30.30	37.70	45.60
51 and over	21.50	28.70	35.30	42.30
<b>Females:</b>				
12-19 years	21.50	25.60	31.00	37.50
20-50 years	21.40	26.50	32.20	41.10
51 and over	21.20	25.80	31.80	38.00



USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans — thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Sue Ann Ritchko, HNIS administrator, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

“USDA costs are only guides to spending,” Ritchko said. “Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.”

“Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable,” she said. “The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan.”

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

— For members eating all meals at home — or carried from home — use the amounts shown in the chart.

— For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent for each meal eaten away from home from the amount shown for the appropriate family member. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

— For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart pertain to individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the “individual” figures and make these adjustments (note: larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones):

— For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

— For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

— For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

— For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

— For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

#



## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.88 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.96 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.93 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.44 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$1.16 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$1.12 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$1.13 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EST until 3 p.m. EST Tuesday, Nov. 17. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. EST. The price announced at that time will be effective when announced.

#

Lynn K. Goldsbrough (202) 720-3930  
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

## **USDA'S VENEMAN OPENS AGRICULTURAL TRADE OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY**

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 10—In a ribbon-cutting ceremony here today, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman opened a new U.S. agricultural trade office to help American farmers and agricultural exporters tap the growing Mexican market.

Operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, the office will promote sales of U.S. agricultural products in Mexico and serve as a contact point for Mexican importers seeking to buy products from the United States.

“Mexico is a logical choice for a new agricultural trade office because the country is the third largest market for U.S. food products,” Veneman said. “U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico in 1992 are expected to surpass \$3.5 billion, more than 20 percent above last year’s record and about triple the level of \$1.2 billion in 1987.”

Veneman said much of the recent growth in U.S. farm exports to Mexico is attributable to Mexican trade liberalization that began in 1987, and to economic benefits accruing to Mexico as a result of those reforms.

Veneman said ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement would further increase U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico.

“NAFTA will eliminate all tariffs, quotas, and licenses that act as barriers to trade between the United States and Mexico,” Veneman said. “By the end of the 15-year transition period called for under the agreement, annual U.S. agricultural exports will likely be \$1.5 to \$2 billion higher than without NAFTA. Our new trade office will help promote these additional sales.”

FAS now operates 15 agricultural trade offices in major markets in Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The new office is located at Parque Virreyes Building, Monte Pelvoux No. 22 PH-2, Colonia Lomas de Chapultepec, 11000 Mexico, D.F., Mexico. The mailing address is Agricultural Trade Office, P.O. Box 3087, Laredo, Texas 78044-3087; telephone (011-525) 211-0042, ext. 3147; facsimile (011-525) 533-6194. The U.S. agricultural trade officer in Mexico is Marvin Lehrer.

#

Linda Feldman (202) 205-1668  
Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

## **GYPSY-MOTH THREAT PROMPTS USDA’S NEW LOOK AT NATIONAL PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is asking for public comment to help update its management strategy to control the destructive gypsy moth, a USDA official announced today.

“Gypsy moths annually defoliate over four million acres of federal, state and privately-owned forests and shade trees and threaten millions of dollars worth of natural resources,” said F. Dale Robertson, chief of USDA’s Forest Service. “For a solid, effective management strategy, it’s essential we involve the public in our analysis of a national gypsy moth program.”



Knowledge about controlling gypsy moths has grown since the program was approved in 1985, Robertson said. The Forest Service and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have teamed up to take a new look at ways to prevent damage to the 287 million acres of U.S. forest land susceptible to the gypsy moth.

Asian gypsy moths were found in the fall of 1991 in the Pacific Northwest, making the situation more urgent. This variety of gypsy moth can spread much faster than the European variety, which infests northeastern United States.

Although APHIS, the Forest Service and the states of Washington and Oregon worked hard in the spring to eradicate Asian gypsy moths, final results are not yet in, Robertson said.

The new gypsy moth management program will take two to three years to complete and will replace or confirm the current program. USDA is following requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act to involve the public early on, when proposing activities that may effect the environment.

The request for comments will be published in the Nov. 12 Federal Register. Submissions are requested as soon as possible but no later than March 15. Comments referring to the gypsy moth program should be sent to John Hazel, gypsy moth team leader, USDA, Forest Service, 5 Radnor Corporate Center, 100 Matsonford Road, Suite 200, P.O. Box 6775, Radnor, Pa. 19087-4585. For more information on call Hazel at (215) 975-4150.

#

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998  
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

## **USDA PROTECTS 28 NEW PLANT VARIETIES**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 28 new varieties of seedreproduced plants including bean, Kentucky bluegrass, corn, delphinium, tall fescue, lettuce, pea, perennial ryegrass and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- Foxfire variety of field bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- Lofts 1757 variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by Lofts Seed Inc., Bound Brook, N.J.;
- FBLA, 6F629, 6M502A and NL001 varieties of corn, developed by DeKalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;
- LH213 variety of corn, developed by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., Williamsburg, Iowa;
- L 155 variety of corn, developed by Limagrains Genetics, Kirkland, Ill.;
- Magic Fountains Dark Blue/Dark Bee, Magic Fountains Lilac Pink and Magic Fountains Sky Blue varieties of delphinium, developed by John Bodger & Sons Co., El Monte, Calif.;
- Shortstop variety of tall fescue, developed by Pickseed West Inc., Tangent, Ore.;
- Raisa variety of lettuce, developed by Rijk Zwaan Zaadteelt en Zaadhandel B.V., De Lier, The Netherlands;
- Pro 917 variety of lettuce, developed by Genecorp Inc., Salinas, Calif.;
- Scamp variety of pea, developed by Pure Line Seeds Inc., Moscow, Idaho;
- Prairie and Applause varieties of pea, developed by Nunhems Seed Corp., Lewisville, Idaho;
- Arise and Encore varieties of pea, developed by Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;
- Amazon variety of perennial ryegrass, developed by the Willamette Seed Co., Albany, Ore.;
- Kosuzu variety of soybean, developed by the Tohoku National Agricultural Experiment Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Morioka-shi, Iwate, Japan;
- BT 2585 variety of soybean, developed by Ziller Seed Co. Inc., Bird Island, Minn.;
- Kasota and Bert varieties of soybean, developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, Minn.;
- SS 516 variety of soybean, developed by Southern States Cooperative Inc., Richmond, Va.; and,
- 9443, 9593 and 9761 varieties of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa;

Certificates of protection for the Lofts 1757 Kentucky bluegrass variety and the Kasota and Bert soybean varieties are being issued for sale by variety



name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

#

